(c) whether it is a fact that some delay is also being caused in several small works associated with the main contract, particularly acquisition of helicopters to supervise the pipe laying operations and, if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF POWER AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRIMATI SUSHILA ROHATGI) : (a) to (c) No, Sir. The original target date of completion will be adhered to.

Utilisation of hydro-electric potential

178. SHRI CHIMANBHAI MEHTA : Will the Minister of ENERGY be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that only 15 per cent of the total estimated hydro-electric potential of about 1,00,000 MW is utilised at present; if so, what is the reason for low utilisation of potential :

(b) whether the capital cost of a hydel and a thermal plant is more or less equal ;

(c) whether the life of hydel plant is around double and generation cost about 1/3rd or that of a thermal plant; and

(d) whether Government is reviewing the matter to encourage installation and expansion of hydel power plants in preference to other means of generation of power, wherever possible?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF POWER AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRIMATI SUSHILA ROHATGI) : (a) The total hydroelectric potential of the country has been assessed at 85,544 MW at 60% load factor, out of which 12.04% has been developed and 5.77% is under development. The main reasons for limited exploitation of the hydel potential are extreme remoteness of most of the sites, long gestation period involved in development of infrastructural facilities like access roads, bridges etc., constraints due to environmental considerations, and inadequacy of funds.

(b) The capital cost of major/medium hydro-electric projects generally varies from Rs. 10,000 to 12,000 and that of the thermal stations is of the order of Rs. 10,000 to Rs. 11,000 per KW of installed capacity.

(c) The life of hydel plant is generally taken as 35 years and that of the thermal plant 25 years. The cost of energy generation of hydel project is generally of the order of 25 paise to 35 paise and that of the thermal plant is of the order of 45 paise to 65 paise per Kwh.

(d) Yes, Sir.

New rates for supply of natural gas to various industries

179. SHRI CHIMANBHAI MEHTA : Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state :

(a) whether ONGC has proposed new rates for the supply of Natural Gas to various industries of Gujarat, Assam and other places in the country, if so, what are the details thereof;

(b) what are the prevalent rates of supply of gas to various parts of Gujarat and Assam :

(c) what were the recommendations of the V.K.R.V. Rao Commission in this regard;

(d) on what basis the Commission proposed the assessments of the royalty on the gas and rates for the industrial & domestic consumers; and

(e) whether the said bases are still being applied; if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF POWER AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRIMATI SUSHILA ROHATGI) : (a) Yes, Sir. ONGC's proposals are based on replacement cost principle w.e.f. January 1982. Therefore, price of gas is revised as and when price of the substitute fuel/feed stock (*i.e.* Nephtha, Furnace oil or coal) is revised. Government are also examining the question of rationalising the price structure of natural gas.

(b) The present rates vary from Rs. 88.85 to Rs. 2778.36/1000M^3. Some of the rates are based on old contracts which are yet to expire. These rates would be revised after the expiry of the contract.

(c) As per the award given by Dr. V.K.R.V. Rao on 23rd September 1967, the price of gas was fixed at Rs. 50 per 1000M^3 excluding transportation cost, royalty and sales tax. This was to be inforce till April 1971.

(d) and (e) The V.K.R.V. Rao Commission did not give any award on royalty. As the award for gas price was only for five years ending April 1971, it has since expired. Royalty is being paid @ 10% of well head value as provided in the Petroleum & Natural Gas Rules, 1959.

Cost of production per 1000 cubic metres of gas

180. SHRI CHIMANBHAI MEHTA : Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state :

(a) what is the production cost per 1000 cubic metres of gas;

(b) whether any parity has been established in terms of calorific value of 1000 cubic metres of gas with that of coal or crude oil;

(c) what is the parity between 1000 cubic metres of gas with a tonne of coal and that of crude oil;

(d) how much ONGC has earned during the last 3 years from the sale of natural gas and what was the royalty paid to the States and the total cost incurred with regard to the gas;

(e) what quantity of gas is being burnt away daily in Gujarat and Assam and what is financial loss in terms of present rates; and

(f) whether such a loss cannot be prevented?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF POWER AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRIMATI SUSHILA ROHATGI) : (a) Cost of production of natural gas for the year 1984-85 was about Rs. 1218 per 1000 M^3; this excludes cost of transportation of gas from the supply point to the various consumers and includes corporate tax incidence.

(b) Yes, Sir.